

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2329

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0323

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR LEONARD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, PARM, FI

SUBJECT: EMBASSY INVITES PARTICIPATION OF USG DISARMAMENT OFFICIAL IN
BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS PLANNED FOR APRIL IN HELSINKI

REF: (A) 77 HELSINKI 2080, (B) HELSINKI 0125 (NOTAL),
(C) STATE 16347

1. OUR PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS--BOTH THOSE HELD DURING
THE VISIT TO HELSINKI OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BAKER
LAST JULY AS WELL AS OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH FINNISH FOREIGN
MINISTER PAAVO VAYRYNEN AND MFA OFFICIALS LAST SEPTEMBER--
PROVIDED EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE BACKGROUND AND
PERSPECTIVE ON US VIEWS ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES
PRIOR TO THE CONVENING OF THE 32ND UNGA. AS THE EMBASSY
POINTED OUT FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
VAYRYNEN, THE OCCASION ENABLED US TO EMPHASIZE OUR DESIRE
TO SEEK MORE FREQUENT AND DEEPER BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS
WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AT VARIOUS LEVELS ON INTERNATIONAL
QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO BOTH OF US (REFERENCE A). WE
BELIEVE THE MINISTRY WELCOMES THIS CONSULTATIVE
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RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THOSE IT MAIN-
TAINS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS; WE ARE OURSELVES CONVINCED IT
IS IMPORTANT TO WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO HERE (REF B).
WE SHARE WASHINGTON'S VIEW THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS ARE
PARTICULARLY HELPFUL PRIOR TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL
MEETINGS (REFERENCE C). WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT
FINLAND BE INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF COUNTRIES TO BE

CONSULTED PRIOR TO THE 33RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

2. BECAUSE OF FINLAND'S SPECIAL INTEREST IN AND INCREASING FOREIGN POLICY CONCENTRATION ON DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS, AND WITH A VIEW TO MOVING THE FINNS TOWARD APPROXIMATELY SEMIANNUAL CONSULTATIONS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ARRANGE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH FINLAND BEFORE THE SPECIAL UN SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. AT A LUNCHEON WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON JANUARY 16, THE AMBASSADOR, AMONG OTHER ISSUES, RAISED THE DESIRABILITY OF ANOTHER JOINT REVIEW OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO FINLAND AND THE UNITED STATES. VAYRYNEN AGREED THAT PARTICULARLY A REVIEW OF THE VARIOUS DISARMAMENT ISSUES, INITIATIVES AND PROPOSALS WOULD BE TIMELY BEFORE THE SPECIAL UN SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. IN A FOLLOWUP CONVERSATION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, THE MFA UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, KEIJO KORHONEN, TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT SUCH A REVIEW WOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE FINNS. IT WAS AGREED THAT IF APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE, THE FINNS WOULD BE WILLING TO SET ASIDE AN ENTIRE DAY ANY TIME FROM LATE MARCH INTO MID-APRIL FOR THE CONSULTATIONS.

3. WE BELIEVE, AND OUR FOREIGN MINISTRY COLLEAGUES CONCUR, THAT THE PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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MEANINGFUL FOR BOTH SIDES IF A RANKING US GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT AND INVOLVED IN DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE FORTHCOMING UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, COULD COME TO FINLAND FROM THE UNITED STATES TO ADDRESS DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS IN THE CONSULTATIONS. AS NOTED, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S TIMING FOR THE POSSIBLE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IS FLEXIBLE. IN THIS REGARD, WE WISH TO POINT OUT THAT THE FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS SEEKING A HIGH-LEVEL US PARTICIPANT TO ADDRESS THE APRIL 24 OPENING SESSION OF A DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE WHICH IT IS ORGANIZING ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE TOLD THE EMBASSY PRIVATELY THAT THEY INTEND TO APPROACH AMBASSADOR JAMES F. LEONARD, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE US MISSION IN NEW YORK, TO ASCERTAIN HIS INTEREST IN ADDRESSING THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

4. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE COULD ARRANGE A DATE FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH WOULD PERMIT AMBASSADOR LEONARD, WERE HE ABLE TO

COME, TO ACCOMPLISH BOTH TASKS. WE ARE NOT CARRYING THE BRIEF FOR THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE: OTHERS UNDOUBTEDLY KNOW BETTER THAN WE THE VALUE OF THE AUDIENCE AND THE OCCASION FOR US DISARMAMENT OBJECTIVES. WE DO, HOWEVER, ASSIGN HIGH IMPORTANCE TO THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH FINLAND WOULD PROVIDE FOR A HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGEABLE IN DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS TO PRESENT CURRENT US DISARMAMENT VIEWS TO THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY PRIOR TO THE CONVENING OF THE SPECIAL UN SESSION ON DISARMAMENT.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY ADVICE ON WHETHER AMBASSADOR LEONARD OR A SIMILARLY CONFIDENTIAL

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DISTINGUISHED OFFICIAL MIGHT BE ABLE TO JOIN US IN HELSINKI FOR THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND IF SO, WHAT DATES WE MIGHT SUGGEST TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.
RIDGWAY

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